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THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"Set in order your houses; keep slothfulness and uncleanliness far from you." DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS 90: 18.

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ISRAEL AND THE NATIONS*

PRESIDENT ANTHONY W. IVINS

MY BRETHREN AND SISTERS: I rejoice greatly, and praise the Lord, who is our strength, and upon whom we depend for guidance and support, for the manifestation of His goodness to us as it is exemplified in this large assembly of Latter-day Saints who are gathered here for the Semi-annual Conference of the Church.

As I look upon this congregation and review the circumstances which have brought it together, going back into the remote past, and see, or appear to see, how literally the Lord fulfills His promises to people with whom He enters into covenant, my heart is made to rejoice.

The purpose of these general assemblies of the Church is that those who have been chosen to preside over it and its members may be brought together from time to time, where reports of the progress and development of the work of the Lord may be made, when instruction may be given, when we may be admonished where admonition is necessary, and encouraged where we need encouragement.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

There are so many distinctive features which differentiate the Church from other religious denominations that it is impossible, in a short period of time, to refer to even a comparatively small number of them. This is one of those distinctive features, this great gathering of the Church, which occurs twice during the

*Address delivered at the opening session of the Ninety-seventh Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 5, 1926.

year. Another distinctive feature is that these people who are assembled here, who make up the membership of the Church are its controlling influence and power under God. Those who preside are placed here by the voice of the Spirit of the Lord, and sustained by the voice of the people. The people uphold them with their faith and prayers, and they depend upon the Lord for inspiration and wisdom to properly direct the affairs of the Church for the benefit of all its members. It is not a Church in which the individual members depend entirely upon the instruction and testimony which come to them from their presiding officers. The testimony of the truth which brings them together is their individual gift and right, and they are here and adhere to the faith because the Lord has manifested His truth to them by the power and gift of the Holy Ghost, and they are not dependent upon others for this knowledge.

IS THE CHURCH RETROGRADING?

Only a short time ago, just a few months, during the present year, a gathering of representatives of other religious denominations from all parts of this intermountain country assembled at Salt Lake City. They discussed the interests of their various organisations; and among other things, as usual, discussed the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which they continue to refer to as a non-Christian organisation; and they took great comfort, apparently, in the reports which were made from various representatives of those denominations to the effect that they had at last succeeded in battering down the walls of this American Islam; that Christianity was making way among the Latter-day Saints; that the activities of our elders were decreasing; and the tithes of the Church gradually being depleted. In other words, that there was a retrograde movement in the Church, which appeared to encourage them in the hope that its members might eventually be converted to the Christian faith.

SUFFICIENT ANSWER

I shall not enter into a discussion of this matter. The proceedings of this great convention were published and may be read. I thought as I looked upon this congregation of men and women that it is sufficient answer to these people. We encourage and bless them in their righteous efforts, and the Lord will bless them for all the good that they accomplish. But they are ignorant of the fact that these Latter-day Saints, these people whom they are endeavouring to convert to Christianity, have been converted, not by argument, not by reason alone, but by the gift of the Holy Spirit, through which they bear testimony to the divinity of the mission and character of the Redeemer of the world as no other people.

THE MEXICAN SITUATION OF WORLD-WIDE IMPORTANCE

Reviewing the occurrences of the past six months, and to a careful observer they have been pregnant with events indicating the rapid approach of the consummation of the work of the Lord, I have been impressed with two occurrences more particularly than others during that period of time. The present attitude of the civil Government in the Republic of Mexico toward the dominant church in that Republic is of greater importance to the world than we generally understand. It is not a question which involves Mexico alone, but is one which involves all of the churches of the world, and the results which shall be achieved there, whether the civil Government of Mexico shall prevail in its present attitude, or whether the church, which is opposed to it, shall prevail, will have a great influence upon the relationship of the Church and State everywhere.

MUST BE DETERMINED

It appears to me to indicate that a time has come when the proper relationship, which should exist between Church and State, between civil and ecclesiastical law, between those who administer civil government and those who stand as representatives of the church or the various religious denominations of the world, must be determined.

That there is a proper relationship is clearly defined in the word of the Lord, and in the teachings of the Redeemer Himself. Give to Cæsar that which belongs to him; render obedience to the civil law. Give to God that which belongs to Him, and render allegiance and service to Him.

This can be done very readily if people can only be brought to understand the proper relationship of these two great administrative powers. One of the accusations made against Christ our Lord was that He had declared Himself to be a King. Yes, He said before Pilate, I am a King, but my kingdom is not of this world; I am not here in antagonism to the kingdom of Herod or to the empire of Rome. My kingdom pertains to the life to come. I am here to teach people the way which will lead them back to God, where they will attain to everlasting life, and where they may be crowned as kings and priests of the Most High.

I shall not enter into any lengthy discussion of this question. I only desire to call your attention to it. Latter-day Saints are perhaps more directly interested in it than any other people in the world, from the fact that the Republic of Mexico is made up in the great majority of its citizenship of people whom the world call Indians, but to whom the Latter-day Saints refer as Lamanites, people whom we believe to be of the chosen and promised seed of Abraham, brought to this continent and established here under the direction of God our Father, under the leadership of their inspired prophets.

WARNED BY PROPHETS

They developed a great civilisation, but finally through unbelief, infidelity, and indifference to the word of the Lord, and the teachings of Christ, who ministered among them, they fell into darkness, became divided into tribes, were decimated by civil war, until they finally so far lost the spirit of the Gospel of Christ that they became idolaters and offered human sacrifices—practices that were entirely foreign to the teachings of their fathers.

It was in this condition that the conquerors of Mexico found them. Their prophets had warned them that this would come to pass. They had exhorted them to turn from idolatry, had declared to them that they should be trodden down of the Gentiles, who would come to this promised land; but just as definitely and surely as their subjugation by foreigners had been declared, so did the Lord promise to their fathers that they should be redeemed, that a remnant of them should survive and be brought back to a knowledge of the truths of the Gospel of Christ and of their real origin.

And so we look forward to the evolution of conditions in that country that will bring about the fulfilment of this latter promise. No people of modern times have been so down-trodden, so persecuted, so afflicted, so burdened with unreasonable burdens, as have the people of Mexico during the past four hundred years. Nothing in the way of suffering could be inflicted upon humanity that has not been inflicted upon them. Mercilessly treated by their conquerors, reduced to slavery, they suffered throughout all these generations. The Lord in His mercy, and undoubtedly by means so natural and common that many will not see His hand in it, will redeem them from this condition.

RETRIBUTION TO PERSECUTORS

And retribution has come to their persecutors. It is a remarkable fact that of these men who brought that nation into subjugation, there was not one, so far as I am aware, who did not pay the penalty for the suffering he inflicted upon them during his mortal life. Columbus, the discoverer of this country, the man who was entitled to honour and glory far greater than he ever received, consented to the traffic in these peoples as slaves, and sent them by shiploads to the old world. You all know how he died at Valladolid, in Spain, how he was cast into prison, how he was stripped of the honours which belonged to him, and died in that condition.

Hernan Cortez, the conqueror of Mexico, suffered the same fate. Francisco Pizarro and his friend Almagro, the conquerors of the Peruvian empire, likewise suffered. Pizarro killed Atahaulpa, and later killed Almagro, his bosom friend. The younger

Almagro killed Pizarro, and he in turn was killed by the governor of the country. Thus one by one retribution came to them. I believe this law to be as inevitable as fate itself: that we reap that which we sow.

So, my brethren and sisters, we feel interested in this movement, this conflict which is now on in that country and which shall determine whether or not the civil government or the church shall rule, or whether the church and the civil government will join hands and in harmonious obedience to both civil and ecclesiastical law go on to the development of this continent as God our Father would have it develop.

THE BRITISH-ISRAEL MOVEMENT

Another thing in which I thought you would be interested is a great movement which is just on in Great Britain, which has been of exceeding interest to me. An association is in existence there, which is sponsored by many of the great scholars and statesmen of Great Britain, called the British-Israel movement. The British people are undertaking to determine who their ancestors were. They have become obsessed with the thought that they are of Israel, and are investigating and studying, going back into the old traditions and folklore of Wales, of Ireland, of England and Scotland, in an endeavour to determine the origin and destiny of the British race. And this in brief is what they are finding out: In the first place that the word "British" itself is very significant. I asked a Jewish Rabbi the other day the derivation of the word "British." He said that in Hebrew it was composed of two words, "Brit"—a covenant, and "ish"—a man. A covenant man or a man of the covenant, the covenant which God our Father made with Abraham, the covenant in which He promised him that his seed should become as numerous as the stars of heaven—a covenant in which He promised him that kings should come out of him, and that through him all nations of the earth should be blessed.

I cannot take the time to go into detail, but it is sufficient for me to say that these investigations show very conclusive if not definite evidence that at an early date in the history of the world, not long after the ten tribes were led away captive into Assyria by Shalmanezer, the tribe of Dan appeared in Ireland and went over into the Scandinavian countries, and there again you will find this singular coincidence: (Dan is one of the tribes of Israel) that Denmark means Dan's Land or the Land of Dan.

REMNANTS OF THE SCATTERED TRIBES

I noted down here, that I might not be too long, just a few of the developments in this investigation. It was after the scattering of the ten tribes that Troy was established, and it is made almost definitely certain that the Trojans and the nations who

lived in the time which we call the age of fable were the remnants of those scattered tribes of Israel which left the head of the Euphrates River and traveled north over the mountains into Northern Europe. They say that the early appearance of the tribe of Dan is very clearly proved. Later came another division of this same people to Scotland, where they were established. There appeared in Ireland six hundred years before Christ a great Israelitish lawgiver, who enforced the observance of the Ten Commandments and established a school of the prophets, who was called Ollam Fodhla, two Hebrew words said to mean "wonderful prophet." A medallion now in existence in Great Britain is said to identify this man with the Prophet Jeremiah.

An old manuscript which has been dug up in the British museum identifies a great character who came there about the same time as Joseph of Arimathea, who came with his daughter Anna to that country. This man, the evidence indicates, was a younger brother of the father of the Virgin Mary, thus Anna became the cousin of the Virgin. The royal family of Great Britain trace their genealogy back direct to this woman Anna. There can be no doubt in regard to this. The only question in doubt is the identity of Anna, and some of the scholars in Great Britain agree that she appears to have been a cousin of the Virgin Mary.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

WHY "MORMONISM"?

(*Concluded from page 743*)

We know beyond all question of doubt that every gift and blessing of the Gospel once enjoyed in ancient days is fully had in these the latter days by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This Church has no quarrel with any religious denomination, and accords full religious liberty to each. It recognises that there is truth in all. The marvel is, that with the limited knowledge men have had in days past, and the darkness that has been upon the earth, that so much light and truth has been preserved. And yet it is mixed with error, and with the doctrines of men. But thanks to the Lord that in these last days, in fulfilment of His precious promises, the truth has been reestablished, pure and free from all accumulated traditions of the ages, and is given for all flesh. That is why we go to South America and to all lands of the earth. That is why we not only preach the Gospel to pagan nations, but to so-called Christian nations; not to take away from them anything that is good, but to bring to them the fulness and truth, and offer unto them by means of that restored Gospel, and through the exercise of the Holy Priest-

hood that God has given to us, the privilege of coming into the fold of Christ.

INVESTIGATION INVITED

The door is open once again, and our missionaries are willing to go to the ends of the earth and pay their own way and travel without purse and scrip, as the disciples of old, and receive the same kind of treatment that those former ministers of Christ had at the hands of men, and count it a great privilege to be thus commissioned to minister for the souls of men. We court the investigation of all men to these great claims, and are not afraid that when men honestly examine the history of the past, the prophecies of old, their fulfilment in the latter days, and the rise and establishment of the Church of Christ upon the earth, but that there will be an absolute conviction come to the honest investigators that these claims are not fraudulent, but that they are founded on the truth; and individual testimonies will come to the investigators that they may have a witness from the Lord and know for themselves that it is the truth, that through the exercise of reason, through the application of scientific principles, by the truths of history, and by the witness and testimony of the Spirit, every shadow of doubt may be removed, and men may come to know as well to-day that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet of the true and living God, as they can know anything that is a reality.

A PERSONAL TESTIMONY

I want to bear witness that every shadow of doubt long since has been removed from my mind. I have found nothing in science, in history, in my study of religions denominations, but that convinces me beyond a shadow of doubt that there was a great apostasy, and that there has been a restoration of the Gospel; and that Joseph Smith indeed was a prophet of the true and living God; that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of mankind, and that there is no other name given under heaven whereby men may be saved; and that Jesus Christ did visit Joseph Smith. This I know as well as I know that I live. I expect to be responsible before God and men for the statements I now make, but I make them in solemnity, because I know better than I know anything else in the world that what the world calls "Mormonism" is indeed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, reestablished upon the earth in fulfilment of ancient prophecy, and that the power of God is in it for the salvation of all men. God bless it and speed it on its mission in all lands and unto all people, that this Gospel of the kingdom may be preached unto all nations before the end comes, and that the honest in heart among all men shall recognise that God has spoken again, and that there is salvation for all who will receive it, is my earnest wish and prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1926

EDITORIAL

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

FORTY-EIGHT separate commonwealths or bodies politic, called "states", compose the American Union or the United States of America. Under the national constitution the states stand in certain specified relations with the American Government, and are vested as commonwealths with full authority in their several spheres over all matters not expressly inhibited. Each state has its own legislature, supreme court, governor, and various bodies and officers of lesser rank and title, through which state laws are enacted, interpreted, applied, controlled, supervised, executed, and enforced. State laws and officers are aided and supplemented by county statutes and officials; (a county is a designated area and the largest division for local government within the state) and the counties in turn comprise cities and towns, each of which has its local civil authorities.

The national Government of the United States comprises legislative, judicial, and executive departments—Congress, the Supreme Court, the President, Vice-President, President's Cabinet, and divers officers of graded order and station.

Congress consists of two houses—the Senate and the House of Representatives. Within its constitutional limits Congress is supreme, deriving its powers directly from the people. Each state in the Union elects, through the ballot of the voting populace, two senators; representatives, in number proportionate to the inhabitants of the state, are likewise elected by the people.

Utah, the "Bee Hive" or "Deseret" State of America, received and donned the robes of statehood in 1896, thus acquiring the rights and privileges of a commonwealth and becoming entitled to elect two senators, and delegates to the lower house of Congress in proportion to the population and the increase thereof. Two congressmen represent Utah at present.

Though the people of the State of Utah in the majority are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church and State are kept entirely separate, distinct, and segregated. One of the Church tenets regarding the relation of religion to secular law reads:

> We do not believe it just to mingle religious influence with civil government, whereby one religious society is fostered, and another proscribed in its spiritual privileges, and the individual rights of its members, as citizens, denied.—Doctrine and Covenants 134: 9.

The present Governor of Utah is a non-"Mormon" as are numerous state, county, and city officials. Loyal and whole-souled support of the civil powers that be, devotion and service to the nation and the righteous interests thereof, are requirements of "Mormonism."

Reed Smoot, one of Utah's staunch native sons, born in Salt Lake City, and reared from the age of ten in Provo, Utah, was elected a United States Senator on January 20, 1903. Prior to that date, in April of 1900, he had been ordained one of the Council of the Twelve in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A radical anti-"Mormon" element in Utah, active during that stormy period, entered formal protest against Elder Smoot being seated in the Senate of the United States, affirming that he, an apostle in the "Mormon" Church, "preached and practised polygamy", which charges were false and malicious; for these bigots knew that the doctrine of plural marriage had ceased to be a tenet of the Latter-day Saints since 1890, and further, that Senator Smoot had never "practised" it.

After long, thorough, and searching investigation and proceedings conducted by the upper house of Congress, during which it was apparent from the beginning that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was on trial and not Senator Reed Smoot alone, the final vote of the Senate was taken. Senator Smoot retained his place in Congress. The inquiry vindicated him a righteous man, and proved to the American Government the wholesome character of the people whom he represented.

Twenty-three years have elapsed since his first election; during the whole of this long period Senator Smoot has been a spokesman for the people of Utah at the nation's Capitol, in Washington D. C. For four consecutive terms of six years each he has efficiently, effectively, tirelessly, and successfully devoted unswerving service to his state and country. Rich and poor, capitalist and laborer, clergy and laity of all good creeds and sects, have benefited by his administration.

Though Senator Smoot first assumed his official duties for the nation under adverse conditions—censured and regarded with obloquy and odium—by reason of his sterling character, manly mein and dignity, inherent ability, and hard work, he has risen to exalted position in the councils of the Union. Irrespective of political party, he has won the personal admiration and profound regard of his colleagues. As a statesman he is respected and recognised nationally and internationally. Two decades and three years of active service in the halls of legislative government constitute him a senator of experience, influence, and distinction.

Senator Smoot is Chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Finance, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Administrative Branches of the Federal Government, a member of the Senate Committee on Lands and Surveys, and of

the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Chairman of the Public Buildings Commission, the Senate's Representative on President Coolidge's Debt Funding Commission.

The good tidings come over the water from Zion that this great statesman and noble defender of the Church and its members was reelected for a fifth term, in the congressional balloting of November 2nd. His previous nomination by acclamation as the standard-bearer of his political party, and now his election by a sweeping and state-wide majority, coupled with his almost quarter century of diligent service, unquestionably designate Senator Reed Smoot "The People's Choice."

His faithful work in and for the Church, his status as one of Twelve Apostles in modern Israel, constitute him a *choice* man unto his Maker.—JAMES K. KNUDSON.

GOSPEL TEACHINGS*

WORK

WORK!
Thank God for the might of it,
The ardour, the urge, the delight of it—
Work that springs from the heart's desire,
Setting the soul and the brain on fire,
Oh, what is so good as the heat of it,
And what is so glad as the beat of it,
And what is so kind as the stern command,
Challenging brain and heart and hand? . . .
Thank God for a world where none may shirk,
Thank God for the splendour of work.—ANGELA MORGAN.

And the master word is Work, a little one, as I have said, but fraught with momentous sequences if you can but write it upon the tablets of your hearts and bind it upon your foreheads.—SIR WILLIAM OSLER.

To be Latter-day Saints men and women must be thinkers and workers; they must be men and women who weigh matters in their minds; men and women who consider carefully their course of life and the principles that they have espoused.—PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

WORK A BLESSING. Work is a legacy, bequeathing happiness to the race. That work is the penalty of sin is a false interpretation and a misconception of God's decree: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." Power to toil is a blessing to all. Earnest, sincere work, requiring persistent effort, is the basis of success in every phase of human endeavour. "To work and not to genius," declared Daniel Webster, "I owe my success." Conscientious labour nets some things greater than success—the

*This article is for use in the course of study of the Relief Societies on the second meeting night in December, and is the concluding lesson for the year of 1926.

capacity for doing, the joy of having done. It is more ennobling to live in poverty and by determined effort be a creator of the beautiful and good, than to live in wealth producing nothing.

Wrong Theories of Work. "The most tedious of all occupation is lack of occupation." The conception that work is menial and not to be participated in by the rich is an error of long standing. Labour is holy, and the maintenance of the worker is but one of its many objects. Work furnishes a means for the normal discharge of human energy; when lacking a process of utilisation, energy sometimes tends toward harmful excesses. It is said that the two classes of people that contribute the largest number of criminals are the tenement poor, untrained to skilled labour, and the idle rich, restrained from work by the fallacy that it is degrading.

Contempt for work was one of the grave mistakes made by the Lamanites, the ancient inhabitants of the Western Hemisphere. It is written that "after they had dwindled in unbelief they became a dark, and loathsome, and a filthy people, *full of idleness and all manner of abominations.*" The descendants of the Lamanites, the Indians of the American continents, have inherited from their progenitors a measure of disregard for labour, and many of them are extremely lazy. The racial theory that work is ignoble has retarded greatly their personal and economic progress. However, in villages and Indian reservations where the Gospel has been preached again in these latter days, and the evil ways of their forefathers shown to the Indians, they are progressive and constitute relatively thriving communities.

Idleness brings in its wake "all manner of abominations." It has been well said that "The idle mind is the devil's workshop."

The "work-for-pay-only" idea has relegated many talented people to the rank of the common artisan, instead of giving them the delight of working as master artists. That "pay" is the chief object of work is as much a fallacy as that ceaseless idleness brings happiness.

Work, the object of which is to serve more and more people in widening range, till it approximates the divine spirit that cares for all the world, is service in the fullest sense and the highest form of exercise we can reach.—Charlotte Perkins Gilman in *Human Work.*

Cooperative Labour. Latter-day Saints, above all people, should and do know and appreciate the value and blessedness of honest toil. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the gospel of work.

Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer.—Doctrine and Covenants 42: 42.

Let every man be diligent in all things. And the idler shall not have place in the church, except he repent and mend his ways.—75: 29.

Obedience to these decrees, combined with the love of fellowmen and the profound sense of justice that the Gospel inculcates,

will one day regenerate the world and bring a condition of brotherhood and equality that all the philosophies of men cannot accomplish.

Work in the Home. A thrifty woman found favour with the inspired writer of the Proverbs, for he wrote this concerning her kind:

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.
She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.—Prov. 31: 13, 22, 24, 27.

The making of works of domestic art—bits of dainty lace or embroidery, a hat or gown—all with proper regard as to colour, design, and texture, enables women of the home to understand and appreciate more fully the benefits of thrift, industry, and beauty.

Latter-day Saint women should fit themselves to become good home-makers. This means more than being efficient housekeepers, it means that they are to preserve order, system, routine, and cleanliness. The home-maker who has a schedule of daily duties and trains herself to do things punctually and systematically controls her work instead of having toil as an exacting master. In housekeeping as in other work the rule for despatch is "get at it, stick to it, finish it."

I am addressing myself to the ladies of the kingdom of God, to those who know how to keep their houses, furniture and beds pure and clean, who can cook food for their husbands and children in a way that it will be clean, tasteful and wholesome. The woman that can do this I call a lady. In this view I differ from the world generally; for the lady of the world is not supposed to know anything about what is going on in the kitchen; her highest ambition is to be sure and be in the fashion, at no matter what cost to her husband or father; she considers that she may as well be out of the world as out of the fashion. A good housewife, whether she possesses much or little, will have a place for everything she has in the house, and make her house orderly and comfortable, and everything when wanted can be found in its place.—President Brigham Young.

Overwork. Human energy is precious; it should not be exhausted needlessly, but should be used in the most profitable way. Ill effects follow overwork. Undue effort robs the worker of the joy that accompanies the normal exertion of mind and body. Toil to the point of exhaustion reduces vitality, and gives a chance for ever present armies of disease germs to make war on health. Mothers are under sacred obligation to guard their own bodily welfare and that of their families.

THE GLORY OF WORK. Every man and woman has some special work to do, some duty to perform—

It matters little whether man devotes his life to the tilling of the soil, the making of shoes, or the writing of books, so that the work be well done. All such tasks are proper, dignified, and necessary parts of the Great Plan, and will lead man along the path of eternal progression. This means that, no matter to what work a man gives himself, providing it is honourable and he does it with all his might, he may rest secure that on the last great day the work will be transmuted into spiritual values, and as such will be written into the eternal record. The quality and not the kind of work is the final test of man's achievements.—DR. JOHN A. WIDTSOE.

Through faith and humility Latter-day Saint women are helped in their righteous work by divine Power. Lofty ideals enable them to labour joyfully with mind and muscle. Every woman should feel the glory and dignity of the simplest home duties; her attitude toward these ennobles or discredits her work.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides opportunity for the complete development of its members, youthful or mature. No worthy ambition exists that the Church does not foster.

That there will be work in the hereafter is as much a certainty as that there is eternal progression. Growth through proper exercise is the inexorable law beyond the veil as on this side. As to work there is a parallel between mortality and the final estate of man in the mansions of heaven.

DISCUSSION

1. Show that work is a blessing to the race.
2. Name some of the wrong theories regarding work.
3. What was one great mistake, in the matter of work, made by the Lamanites?
4. Wherein lies the danger of the "work-for-pay-only" idea?
5. Name the bad effects of overwork.
6. Contrast the belief of our Church with that of others in regard to work in the hereafter.

This article concludes the course of lessons prescribed for the Relief Societies of the British Mission for the year 1926. It is earnestly hoped that all organisations have given conscientious effort to the preparation and presentation of these lessons; that the "Gospel Teachings" treated are more thoroughly understood and appreciated; that individual study, made possible through each member having access to the text, has been more general; and that added knowledge and increased efficiency will be manifest in the lives of the readers. May "Gospel Teachings" always be fully assimilated and transformed into Gospel Practice!

THE FREE STATE CONFERENCE

A GOODLY NUMBER of members of the Church who reside in the southern part of Ireland convened at Dublin on November 21st in conference gatherings. Sister May Booth Talmage and Elder Seth W. Pixton were in attendance from Mission headquarters, together with President Benjamin R. Birchall, the four Traveling Elders of the Free State district, and the following visitors: President John N. Fraser of the Ulster district, President Orson H. Pratt, formerly of the Nottingham district, Elder James W. Paxman and his wife, Sister Julia S. Paxman, from the London district, Elder Adrain V. Toolson from the Nottingham district and Elder Cyril P. Manghan of the Ulster district.

Well prepared essays on the Word of Wisdom and vocal selections suited to the theme were recited and rendered by Sunday School scholars. Elder James W. Paxman quoted the divine fiat: "Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things", and addressed the assembly, with this Scriptnre as his central thought. Several illnstrative anecdotes were related by Sister Talmage, which verified the fact that health, strength, and happiness are the blessings meted out to those who observe the Word of Wisdom. One of the principal objects of Church auxiliaries is to instil in the youth of Zion the realisation of the boon of physical, mental and moral well-being, and how these attributes may be fostered by observing the laws given of the Lord in regard to them. Sisters Bertha Benlah and Gertie Horlacher sang a pleasing duet.

Rural districts have been penetrated and canvassed; new and earnest inquirers have been made for the Church; 893 hours have been devoted to tracting; 1,330 gospel conversations have been engaged in; 146 books and pamphlets and 13,385 tracts have been distributed, by the missionaries since spring conference. Church affairs in the district are in good condition; the members are united and happy; the Free State district is prospering despite the opposition manifest toward our people. Such were the encouraging statistics and facts embodied in a report read and remarks made by President Benjamin R. Birchall during the afternoon meeting. Convincing testimonies were borne and short but pithy addresses delivered by Elders Cecil B. Crane, Lyman T. Nielson, Robert E. Harvey, Rondo H. Robinson, Adrain V. Toolson, Cyril P. Manghan and Sister Julia S. Paxman. A vocal selection from "The Messiah" was rendered by Sister Ena Birchall.

Sincere obedience to God's laws and precepts, and this alone, will gain for mortals exaltation in the kingdom of heaven, declared President John N. Fraser. President Orson H. Pratt averred that if people would only eradicate from their minds the misconceptions concerning "Mormonism", they would find upon honest investigation that the plan of life and salvation is

the gladsome message thereof. Elder Paxman chose for his text the following verse from modern Scripture, and developed it in forceful manner:

Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.—Doctrine and Covenants 121 : 45.

Elder Seth W. Pixton avouched that one of the greatest evidences of the divine inspiration of Joseph Smith, that he was in very deed a prophet of God, is the work he performed coupled with the knowledge he gave pertaining to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Word of Wisdom has been vindicated through current developments of science. Joseph Smith anticipated science in setting forth precepts as to diet and bodily health. Those commissioned to prepare for the second coming of the Lord should be zealously careful not to defile their bodies by taking into them unwholesome substances. The soul of man—the spirit and body united—should be held in sacred regard; for if men are to return to their Maker, they must be as He is, pure in heart, mind and body.

Gatherings of the Relief Society sisters and the M. I. A. officers and teachers convened on Sunday. The Traveling Elders met on Monday, rendered reports and received instruction. Monday evening a social entertainment was held in honour of President Grant's seventieth birthday. Elder Robert E. Harvey, who has been transferred to the Liverpool district, was presented with a token of esteem.

SETH W. PIXTON

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfer—Elder Robert E. Harvey has been transferred from the Free State to the Liverpool Conference.

Departures—Elders Weldon G. Green, E. Leland Nichols, Allen C. Reynolds and LeRoy E. Peterson, sailed from Southampton on November 23rd by the steamship *Leviathan*, bound for their homes in America.

Doings in the Conferences: *Birmingham*—Baptismal services were held in the Handsworth Chapel on November 7th and in the Kidderminster Chapel on November 21st. In all, eight persons were baptized by President J. Forest Wood and Elder Morgan Hawkes; and were confirmed by President J. Forest Wood, President Leland N. Wight, formerly of the Norwich Conference, and Elders Laurence Peterson, Norman Dunn, Morgan Hawkes, William L. Gittins and Robert L. Dunn.

Branch Conferences—Of the Manchester Branch, Manchester Conference, on October 31st. President Landell S. Merrill and Elders N. Glenn Stanford and Eugene R. Budge were the speakers. The *Manchester Evening Chronicle* gave a favourable account of the proceedings.

Of the Northampton Branch, Birmingham Conference, on October 31st. "A Latter-day Saint's Duty to His God, Country and Home" was the theme of the Conference. President J. Forest Wood and Elders Cleston H. Rigby, Rulon F. Thompson and Laurence Peterson, discussed timely topics of the faith.

Of the Plymouth Branch, Bristol Conference, on October 31st. An impressive program was rendered by the Sunday School on the subject of "Revelation." The speakers of the evening session were President LeRoy E. Peterson and Elders Lavon E. Payne and Harold J. Butcher.

Words from the Workers—Due to inclement weather and because our work in and near the organised branches is proving fruitful, we have withdrawn from the rural villages for a period; but shall continue to visit frequently the many friends we have made in these places. Our missionaries have laboured earnestly and diligently during the spring, summer, and thus far this fall, practically every town in the district has been canvassed. We feel that we have sown many seeds in rich and fertile soil and that a harvest will result from our labours. The attendance at branch meetings has improved twenty per cent.; more baptisms have been administered thus far this year than during any of the past several years; *Star* subscriptions are continually increasing. The resident members have responded to our slogan "Every member a missionary"; increased interest has been taken in every activity regardless of these troublesome times. Several influential newspapers have published good reports of our activities, for which we are grateful.—*President Landell S. Merrill of the Manchester Conference.*

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE CONFERENCES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN